



## Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL  
Governor

MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD  
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

February 11, 2022

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear Resident / Representative:

The Veterans Home's efforts to prevent the spread and impact of the coronavirus continue. The safety and wellbeing of all residents is our top priority. The Infection Prevention and Control Committee continues to meet regularly to respond to our current situation, review new guidance, and work closely with our health department contacts.

We had no new positive staff cases and one resident positive result this past week. This is a total of eighty-seven residents and one hundred and fifty-seven staff who have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available.

We will continue with outbreak testing of residents and staff twice next week and will alert you of any positive results.

We also ask residents to continue to try not to leave their rooms as much as possible because we are still in outbreak status and the County virus transmission rate remains high. Residents should wear a mask at all times when out of their rooms or when closer than 6 feet from others.

Starting next week, we will provide at-home rapid tests to visitors to help avoid people traveling to the Veterans Home and then having to leave if the test is positive. We will accept a negative result from a rapid test done outside the Veterans Home within 24 hours of the visit. We will also accept a negative PCR test done within 48 hours of a visit. Security will continue to require that visitors complete a self-testing attestation form prior to the visit.

There are two testing stations in the lobby, and we will also continue to provide assistance and support when the testing clinic is open. The two testing stations in the lobby have printed directions to help visitors with the testing process. If there are any questions or concerns at any point, a staff member from the testing clinic or nursing supervisor will be summoned to assist in answering questions and providing verbal coaching and guidance.

As always, please contact your Social Worker if you have any questions or for further assistance.

Respectfully,

*Kurt D. Apthorpe*

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